Rehabilitation of labourers of closed NTC mills

†1102. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Government for the rehabilitation of displaced labourers of the closed units of the NTC;

(b) whether it is a fact that the benefit to be given on voluntary retirement from service to the employees of closed mills is not in consonance with the benefit given to the employees of other organizations;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures beign taken to remove such disparity and solve the problems of the labourers?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The Government has offered a liberal Voluntary Retirement Scheme to the workers affected by the closure of unviable mills of NTC. The scheme provided for increasing *ex gratia* payment to the workers by 50% to 100% depending upon date of revision of wages. An amount of Rs. 1608 crore has been spent so far on the Voluntary Retirement Scheme. Besides, Department of Public Enterprises has formulated a scheme for counselling, re-training and re-deployment (CRR) of employees of public sector and NTC employees are exposed to such CRR programmes.

(b) and (c) The amount of compensation paid to the employees of the NTC mills under Modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme (MVRS) is more attractive than VRS given in general.

(d) Does not arise.

Weight based refund under Duty Drawback Scheme

1103. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Government have introduced weight based refund under Duty Drawback Scheme instead of per-piece norms;

(b) if so, whether it is not a fact that the industry has incurred a loss to the tune of Rs. 1500 crores due to Government's apathy on the issue; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) how the Ministry is coordinating with the Finance Ministry in this regard to save the textile trade in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The Government had introduced duty drawback rates of textile items on weight basis w.e.f. 19.1.2005 instead of earlier system based on FOB value and per piece norms. However, in the Drawback Schedule, 2005-06, which was notified on 2nd May, 2005, the duty drawback rates on *ad valorem* basis was reintroduced.

(b)The weight based drawback rates had the impact of reduction of admissibility of drawback on high valued items and increase in duty drawback rates on low value export items. The admissibility of duty drawback rates is dependent on many factors such as FOB value of exports, incidence of fiscal levies on the inputs of export product, the quantum of exports, etc.

(c) The Ministry of Textiles have constantly been interacting with the trade and the problems of the trade are appropriately taken up with Ministry of Finance for their resolution.

Technology mission on jute

1104. SHRI C. PERUMAL:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Jute Technology Mission is being implemented;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the incentives given for exports of jute products?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA): (a) to (c) There is a proposal to implement a Jute Technology Mission. However, this is yet to be approved by the Competent Authority.

Pitiable condition of weavers in the country

†1105. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the condition of the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.